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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/701,303	11/28/2000	Akihiko Sano	0020-4771P	8796
2292	7590	02/08/2005		
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH			EXAMINER	
PO BOX 747			SPEAR, JAMES M	
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1615	

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/701,303	SANO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James M Spear	1615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 February 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

JAMES M. SPEAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/07/2004
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

The Information Disclosure Statement filed 07 May 2004 and Request For Reconsideration filed 04 February 2004 have been entered.

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujioka et al US 5,851,547 in view of Hudson et al EP 0 009 410. The claims remain rejected for the reasons set forth in the Office action mailed 10 September 2003.
3. Applicant's arguments filed 04 February 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants feel the combination of Fujioka and Hudson does not lead one to arrive at their claimed invention. Fujioka et al shows that drug release from a formulation comprised of a non-degradable hydrophobic material is known. See Example 1, Test Example 1. Formulation 1 comprises the ETR Elastomer Q7-4750 and human serum albumin. Formulation 2 comprises the same components as formulation 1 further coated with ETR Elastomer Q7-4750. While one embodiment of Fujioka et al is directed to an outer layer without an active agent it is shown that the silicone polymer that comprises the outer layer may act as a carrier for an active agent. The prior art teaches that it is not novel or unobvious to place a drug in the outer layer of a coated drug formulation as taught by EPA 0 009 410. There are many different reasons for doing this. It would be reasonable to provide such a formulation when there is a desire to provide a very rapid initial release. See column 10, lines 9-12. The drugs administered in the dosage form determine what rate of release is required. See column 6, line 35 through column 7, line 6. It is well known in the art that certain drugs

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require an immediate initial dose followed by a sustained release. Drugs disclosed by Fujioka et al such as insulin, antibiotics and anti-inflammatory agents are in this class. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a preparation having a drug in the outer and inner layer of the Fujioka et al formulation when an initial rapid drug release followed by a sustained release is desired. The motivation being suggested by a desire to tailor the formulation for optimum therapeutic efficacy resulting in a good patient response to treatment.

Claims 1-8 are rejected.

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M Spear whose telephone number is 571 272 0605. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday from 6:30 AM to 3 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K Page, can be reached on 571 272 0602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571 273 8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James M. Spear
James M Spear
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1615

February 6, 2005